

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05
HEW-04 OES-06 TRSE-00 CU-02 OMB-01 SSM-03 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ARA-06 IOE-00
SIL-01 LAB-04 /130 W
-----182027Z 127414/45 53

P R 151647Z APR 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6600
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2806

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARAGRAPHS NUMBERS 5 THRU 7
VICE 6 THRU 8)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: WHO, PFOR, IS, XF
SUBJ: ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE IN WHO

REF: (A) GENEVA 2682; (B) STATE 080321

SUMMARY. WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT TO SEE MAHLER APRIL 19,
THE FIRST DAY HE WILL BE BACK IN GENEVA. CHARGE IS PRO-
CEEDING, TOO, WITH PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED LUNCHEON WITH MAHLER
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AND OTHER OFFICIALS ON THE FOLLOWING DAY TO GO OVER THIS
AND OTHER ISSUES AT THE WHO ASSEMBLY IN MAY. MEANWHILE,
WE HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR EGYPTIAN MISSION VIEWS.
END SUMMARY.

1. WHO DIRECTOR GENERAL MAHLER PRESENTLY IS AWAY FROM
GENEVA AND IS NOT EXPECTED TO RETURN UNTIL THE EVENING

OF APRIL 18. WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT TO MEET WITH HIM AT 0900 APRIL 19. AS MAHLER PERSONALLY OVERSEES THIS PROBLEM, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL OR DESIRABLE TO MAKE THE POINTS CONTAINED REF (B) WITH HIS DEPUTY, LAMBO.

2. WE HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY IN THE INTERIM, HOWEVER, TO EXPLORE WITH EGYPTIAN MINISTER EL-IBRASHI THE PROSPECTS, AS HE SEES THEM, FOR ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES AT BOTH THE WHO ASSEMBLY AND AT THE ILO CONFERENCE WHICH WILL FOLLOW IN JUNE. HE TOLD US THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO ARAB COORDINATION AS YET FOR EITHER OF THE CONFERENCES. HE SAID THAT THIS COORDINATION HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THE PAST IN CAIRO, OR ANOTHER ARAB CAPITAL, AND NOT AMONG MISSIONS IN GENEVA.

3. WE OBSERVED THAT THE TWO ANNUAL CONFERENCES WILL COINCIDE THIS YEAR WITH THE HEIGHTENED EFFORTS BEING MADE BY BOTH OF OUR GOVERNMENTS ON THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION. WHILE MAINTAINING AT FIRST THAT BOTH THE WHO AND ILO ANNUAL CONFERENCES WERE "TECHNICAL MEETINGS" IN WHICH ACTIONS TAKEN HAD TO BE SEEN QUITE SEPARATELY FROM THE OVER-ALL MIDDLE EAST QUESTION, EL-IBRASHI ACKNOWLEDGED IN THE END THAT EVEN RHETORICAL ACTIONS TAKEN IN THESE CONFERENCES COULD HAVE A DELETERIOUS EFFECT ON OVER-ALL EFFORTS, IF ONLY BECAUSE OF THE IMPACT OF PUBLIC OPINION. REGARDING PAST RUMORS OF AN ARAB MOVE TO EXPEL ISRAEL FROM WHO, EL-IBRASHI SAID THIS HAS NEVER BEEN THE EGYPTIAN OBJECTIVE, AND IS NOT UNDER DISCUSSION AMONG

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ARAB MEMBERS.

4. EL-IBRASHI SEEMED TO AGREE WITH OUR POINT THAT THE SEQUENCE OF STEPS TAKEN BY THE WHO SPECIAL COMMITTEE SINCE THE LAST WHO ASSEMBLY LOGICALLY SHOULD PERMIT NO MORE THAN AN "INTERIM REPORT" TO THE MAY ASSEMBLY. HE FELT STRONGLY, HOWEVER, THERE SHOULD BE AN ASSEMBLY ACTION WHICH WOULD INCLUDE REITERATION OF THE CONDEMNATORY LANGUAGE OF THE PREVIOUS RESOLUTION, AND EXPECTED THE ARAB MEMBERS WOULD ALL INSIST UPON THIS. WHILE HE DID NOT BELIEVE A NEW RESOLUTION NEED GO BEYOND THE CONDEMNATORY LANGUAGE OF THE RESOLUTION OF LAST YEAR, HE FELT STRONGLY THAT IT WOULD NEED TO BE REPEATED, BUT WAS QUITE DEFINITE IN RULING OUT ANY THOUGHT OF ATTEMPTING AN EXPULSION MOVE. WHEN WE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE NEED, AND CONCERN IN ADDITION ABOUT THE NOISE LEVEL THIS MIGHT BE CARRIED TO, HE SEEMED IMPRESSED ONLY WITH THE LATTER POINT.

5. EL-IBRASHI APPEARED TO BE POORLY INFORMED ABOUT WHAT HAS TRANSPired RECENTLY BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE. HE ATTEMPTED TO FIRST TO FIND ARGUMENTS FOR PLACING RESPONSIBILITY UPON ISRAEL FOR THE FACT THAT A VISIT WILL NOT OCCUR BEFORE THE NEXT ASSEMBLY, BUT ACKED AWAY SOMEWHAT FROM THIS WHEN WE POINTED OUT THAT, GIVEN THE HIGHLY POLITICAL PURPOSES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE VISIT AND THE DOMESTIC PRE-ELECTION SITUATION IN ISRAEL, ISRAELI AUTHORITIES WOULD SEEM TO HAVE RESPONDED TO THE VERY LATE REQUEST BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE WITH REMARKABLE SPEED.

6. EL-IBRASHI SAID THAT THE ARAB MISSIONS HABITUALLY MEET WITH MAHLER SHORTLY BEFORE WHO ASSEMBLIES, AND INDICATED THAT NEITHER THE INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITALS NOR THE FINAL COORDINATION HERE WAS LIKELY TO OCCUR UNTIL QUITE SHORTLY BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY OPENS ON MAY 2.

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7. WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO JUDGE THIS SITUATION, IN THE WAY THE DEPARTMENT MUST, BUT EL-IBRASHI'S REMARKS REENFORCE OUR VIEW THAT DEMARChES IN CAPITALS ARE IN ORDER ON THE WHO ASSEMBLY QUESTION. AS FOR THE ILO CONFERENCE, HOWEVER, WE WOULD SEE SOME WISDOM IN LETTING THESE SAME CAPITALS DRAW THEIR OWN CONCLUSIONS FROM (A) OUR CONCERN ABOUT FIREWORKS IN WHO AND (B) OUR POSTURE ON THE EVE OF OUR POSSIBLE FORMAL WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO.

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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From: GENEVA
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